River basin management

The Rhine experience

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Head of the Secretariat of the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine

Two parts

a. Member states, policy documents and successes

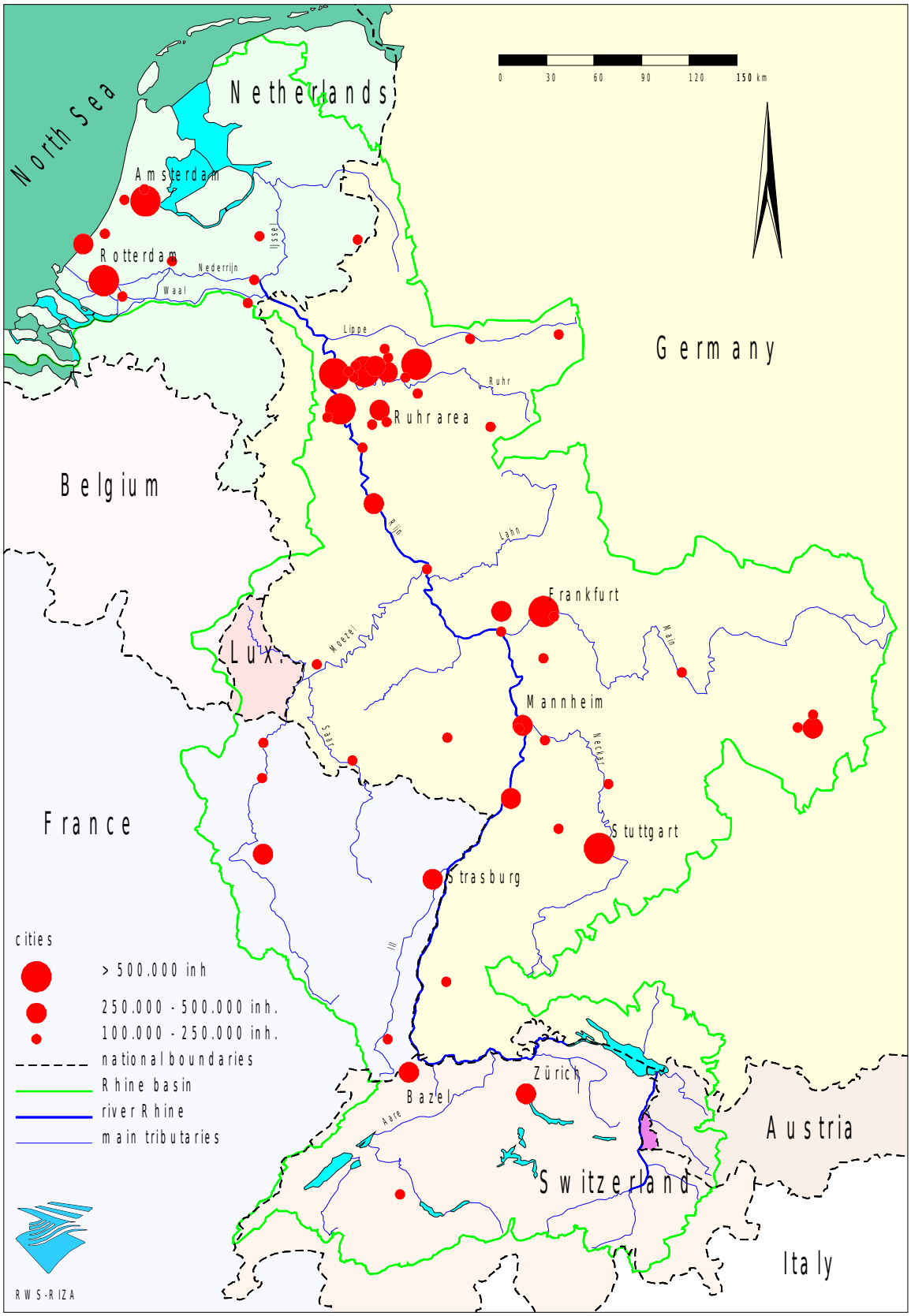
b. What makes the ICPR effective?

Rhine Commission

International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine

ICPR

- Switzerland, France, Germany, Luxemburg, Netherlands, European Community
- Established 1950


North Sea
Netherlands
Amsterdam
Rotterdam
Nederrijn
Waal
IJssel
Lippe
Ruhr
Ruhrarea
Germany
Belgium
Rijn
Lahn
Frankfurt
Main
Mosel
Lux.
Mannheim
Saar
Neckar
France
Stuttgart
Strasburg
Ill
Zürich
Bazel
Aare
Austria
Switzerland
Italy
0
30
60
90
120
150 km
cities
> 500.000 inh
250.000 - 500.000 inh.
100.000 - 250.000 inh.
national boundaries
Rhine basin
river Rhine
main tributaries
RWS-RIZA

River Rhine

CHARACTERISTICS

- Catchment area: 200.000 km²
- Length: 1320 km

3rd European river, after Volga and Danube

- 9 countries
- Inhabitants: 50 million
- Drinking water for 20 million people

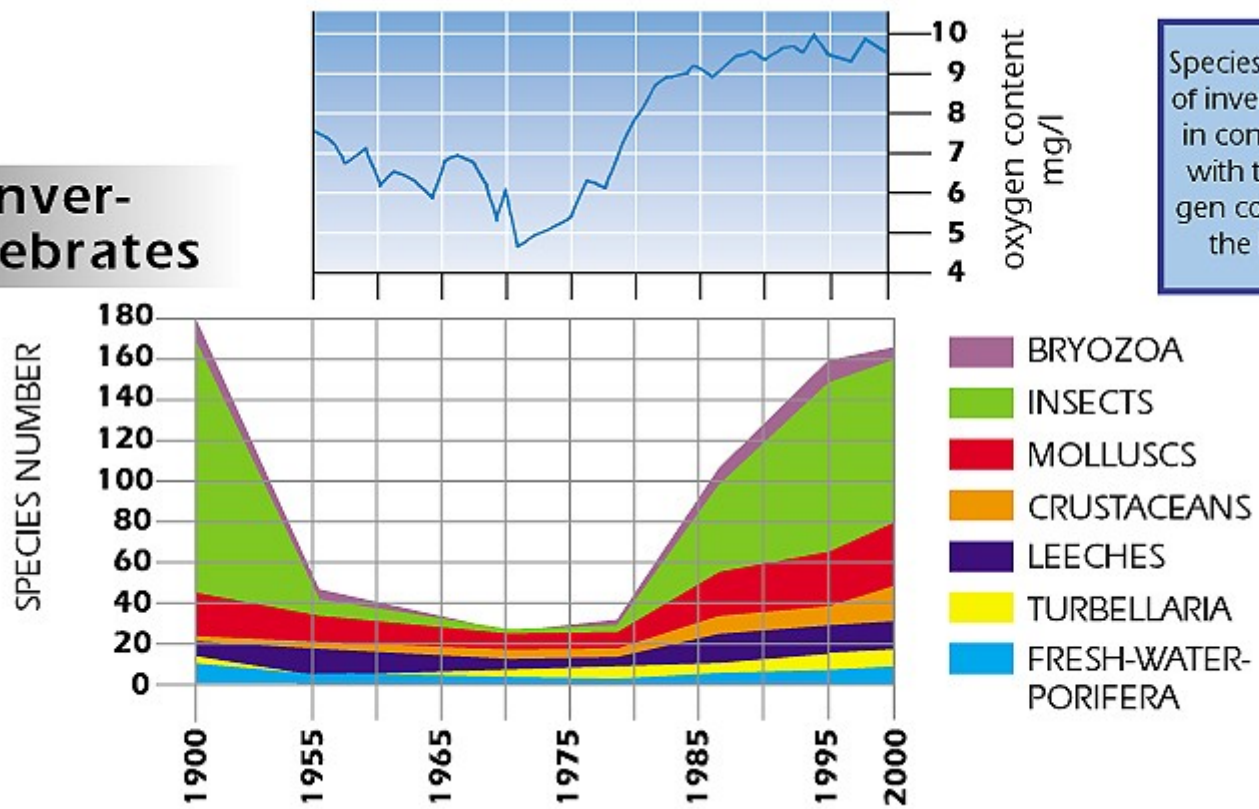
ICPR

The Rhine Action Program (1987 – 2000)

The results

- Water Quality has considerably improved
- Accidents have been considerably reduced
- The Rhine fauna has recovered

Inver-tebrates



Species number of invertebrates in connection with the oxygen content of the Rhine

Rhine 2020

Rhine 2020: Program on the sustainable development of the Rhine

- Ecosystem improvement
- Flood prevention
- Water quality improvement
- Groundwater protection

Rhine 2020

What makes the ICPR effective?

Rhine 2020

Organisation

- Plenary meeting
- Coordination group
- Working groups on

a. Water quality
b. Flooding
c. Ecology

- Expert groups for specific issues

ICPR Observers

- **States**
  - **Austria**
  - **Belgium/Région wallonne,**
  - **Liechtenstein**
- **Intergovernmental Organizations (IGO's)**
  - **River commissions**
  - **OSPAR-Commission**
  - **Central Commission for Rhine Shipping**
- **Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's)**
  - **Drinking water industry**
  - **Chemical industry**
  - **Nature protection**

Rhine Commission

What makes an international Commission work?

- Delegations
  - political mandate
  - technical know how
  - funds
- Rules of cooperation
- Neutral secretariat

Rhine Commission

Rules of cooperation

- Consensus
- Decisions are recommendations
- Funding
- Programs and measures
- Obligation to report on the progress of implementing measures

ICPR

Secretariat

- Seat in Koblenz (G) as part of package deal
- supports all meetings (80/yr)
- relatively small
  - 3 experts
  - 5 interpreters
  - 3 administratives

Working languages

- German
- French
- Dutch

- Homepage: www.iksr.org

ICPR

Secretariat (2)

- Regular budget (1.000.000 €/yr)
  - 75% salaries
  - rent, publications, computers, communication